

**For the Week Ending  
September 30, 2016**

**Upcoming Town meetings:**

- **Planning Commission:** Tuesday, October 4, 7:00 PM, Town Offices, 781 Blakely Road, Outer Bay Room, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor
- **Selectboard:** Tuesday, October 11, 6:30 PM, Town Offices, 781 Blakely Road, Outer Bay Room, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor
- **Recreation Advisory Board:** Wednesday, October 12, 7:00 AM Town Offices, 781 Blakely Road, Champlain Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor

**Upcoming events and programs:**

- **Pumpkins in the Park:** October 22, 2-4 PM at Bayside Park. All ages welcome. Bring a pumpkin and Parks and Recreation will provide the carving tools and staff guidance.
- **Senior Lunch & Bowl:** Ages 55+ October 12 – November 16, 11 AM-1 PM \$105 residents/\$110 non-residents. Includes lunch and 2 games of bowling. Spare Time Bowling, Lower Mountain View Drive.
- **Save the date:** Burnham Library Halloween party, October 29, details below.

**Notices:**

- Bayside Paddle Sports has closed for the season.
- **Parks and Recreation is in need of more volunteers to join the Winter Carnival Committee!** Meetings are once a month beginning in October. Please contact Mike LaPan if you are interested at [mlapan@colchestervt.gov](mailto:mlapan@colchestervt.gov) or 802-264-5648.

**Lost & Found**

- Found in Planning and Zoning Department, Town Offices: Free Country neoprene jacket with zip front; black, size 2x. Yours?

While by no means a total representation of all the work performed by the Town, the following highlights some Departments' activities:

**Town Manager's Office**  
**Dawn Francis, Town Manager**

**The Future of Recreation in Colchester:**  
**Planning Today for Our Community Tomorrow**

Colchester is an active and growing community. Residents are asking for expanded recreation facilities and a community center that can become the heart of the Town. For years, various community groups have tried to create a plan for expanded

recreation facilities and a community center but lack of consensus and limited funding sources stymied efforts to go forward. We are now at a pivotal moment when we have the opportunity to begin creating the Bayside Park that the community desires and to make Colchester a “must visit” recreation destination for tourists to the Champlain Valley. This is not just a recreation opportunity; it’s an economic one that will revitalize our historic commercial center and allow our business community to prosper.

Nine months ago the Town sought the expertise of a parks and recreation consulting firm, GreenPlay, LLC, to begin a Master Plan project. They conducted a sweeping needs assessment for a Community Health & Wellness Center by:

- Touring and evaluating potential locations for expansion including Bayside Park, the Bayside /Hazelett properties, Severance Corners, and others;
- Meeting with residents, Town officials and staff, and citizen focus groups;
- Hosting two public forums at the Colchester High School; and
- Conducting a statistically valid survey available online and mailed to over 3,000 Colchester households.

Survey responses confirmed the nearly daily requests Parks and Recreation receives for expanding our recreation programs and park facilities. GreenPlay concluded that:

- Bayside Park and the nearby 14-acre Bayside/ Hazelett property (which the Town acquired almost ten years ago) have the most potential to meet the needs of the community.
- Expanded amenities should include:
  - Amphitheater to host concerts
  - Pickleball and volleyball courts
  - Community center with indoor/outdoor water features
  - Dog park
  - Athletic fields, Frisbee golf, green spaces, picnic areas
  - Pedestrian connections and trails

The immediate next steps to refine the Master Plan are:

- Solidify the big picture by circling back to residents and parks users for their input about the conceptual master plan (check out our website and watch LCATV presentation, link given below.)
- Detail a multi-year, phased-in approach to development and prioritize which amenities are to be built first
- Determine where important infrastructure (roads, sewers, stormsewers, etc.) should be placed now that we have a vision for the Bayside Park and Hazelett properties

- Identify funding sources and create a strategy for paying for the phases to include:
  - Partnerships and grants
  - Impact fees and the local option tax
  - A capital campaign
  - Future user fees to fund staffing and ongoing maintenance

Town officials and staff will seek continual feedback from the public as the project progresses. Your views on the subject will matter greatly.

The Selectboard expressed their enthusiasm and support for the concepts presented by GreenPlay at their meeting on September 27: you may watch the meeting on LCATV. To read the full details of the Bayside Park Master Plan see the September 23 Town Newsletter online: <http://colchestervt.gov/ArchiveCenter/ViewFile/Item/419>

For more information about the Town Manager's Office, please visit <http://colchestervt.gov/manager> or call (802) 264-5509.

**Burnham Memorial Library**  
**Kelly Tomaseski, Director**

Though the leaves have yet to catch up, autumn is here, and it's a good time for a good book. Whether you're looking for a colorful picture book for the kids, a dystopian sci-fi adventure for a teen or tween, or something scary to get you in the Halloween spirit, we can help! Here are our upcoming events:

- One-on-One Tutoring – Mondays 6-8 PM, Wednesdays 4-8 PM, and Saturdays 9 AM-3 PM. We've just expanded tutoring to three days a week! Students from the Colchester campus Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences tutor students in reading, math, and science at the library. The program is focused on grades 1-6, but tutoring is available in other grades for certain subjects. There is no fee for this service. Call us at 264-5660 to sign up.
- Reading Buddies – Wednesday, October 5 and 19, 3:30 PM. Reading Buddies is back for the school year, kids in Kindergarten and up. Every 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday we'll have one or more volunteer mentors on the purple couch downstairs waiting to read with a child. Reading out loud to a mentor helps children gain confidence in their skills as they practice and learn. Mentors might also talk about favorite books or enjoy a quick game in addition to reading. You can sign up to reserve a slot at the youth desk or just drop in and visit. We'll follow the district school calendar, so please check our calendar for specific dates/times.

For further information or comment, please call Linda Gustainis at 802.264.5509

- Crafts for Kids – Monday, October 10 and 24, 3:30 pm. Kids 5 and up get to work on a new craft project every session.
- Read to Willy Wonka the Chocolate Lab – Tuesday, October 11 and 25, 4 PM. Sign up to read to our certified therapy dog. If you're not yet reading, an adult will read to you while you and Willy Wonka sit back and enjoy the stories. Call to sign up!
- Practice SAT Exam at Our Lady of Grace Church, 784 Main St. – Saturday, October 15, 9 AM, FREE. Offered by Burnham YA partnered with The Princeton Review. Sign up in person or online, reservation deadline is October 8. The test generally lasts about four hours; bring snacks. Recommended for high school students and college applicants, but open to all who sign up.
- Needle Felting Pumpkins – Tuesday, October 11, 2-3:30 PM and Monday, October 17, 6:30-7:45 PM. Learn how to needle felt a cute pumpkin. All materials provided. Sign up at our website.
- “Guy Reads” Book Group – Thursday, October 27, 6 PM. Join us at Groennfell Meadery, 856 Hercules Drive, to enjoy good books and better drinks. All genders welcome. This time we'll be reading “The True History of the Kelly Gang” by Peter Carey.
- Halloween Party – Saturday, October 29, 2 PM. The annual Halloween Party is back! Trick or treat around the library and collect some interesting themed goodies. There will be Halloween stories, crafts, snacks, dancing, and treats to take home. Wear a costume for a mini parade around the grounds. All ages welcome. Sign up at our website.
- Universal Class – Did you know that patrons can access Chilton's library of automobile repair resources online? Use your library card to login and find procedures, diagrams, photos, and more. Whether you have a 2015 Subaru Outback or a 1975 MG, Chilton's can help. You can access it at: <http://colchestervt.gov/230/Vermont-Online-Library>

For more information about Burnham Memorial Library's events and services, visit <http://colchestervt.gov/library> or call (802) 264-5660.

**Parks and Recreation Department**  
**Glen Cuttitta, Director**

For further information or comment, please call Linda Gustainis at 802.264.5509

- The Parks and Recreation Department and GreenPlay presented the final draft of the Bayside Park Master Plan and the Community Center Needs Assessment and Master Plan at the Selectboard meeting on September 27th. More information can be found at: <http://colchestervt.gov/695/Future-Projects>.
- Currently preparing the FY 18 Budget and the FY 2018-23 Capital Plan Budget.
- Staff attended a statewide Recreation conference at Lake Morey in Fairlee, VT
- Met with Middle School faculty to set up 2016-17 school year programs, initiatives and events and presented at elementary school Open Houses.
- A new Parks & Rec e-newsletter will be available soon. Follow us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and Snapchat!
- Updated our Youth Basketball Volunteer training for efficiency, focus on skill levels, and to provide better support to volunteers. Also revising the rules for each grade level per feedback from last year.
- New playground surfacing was installed at all Town playgrounds.
- Parks staff cleared brush in several Town cemeteries. New fence was installed at Munson Cemetery and taking quotes to replace fences at the Champlain and Old Methodist Cemeteries.

For more information about the Parks and Recreation Department, please visit <http://colchestervt.gov/recreation> or call (802) 264-5640.

#### **Highlights of Selectboard Meeting of September 27**

- Selectboard approved the first reading of an amendment to Chapter 12 Traffic Section 12-16 Speed Limits, Class 2 Highways, Mayo Road from 50 mph to 40 mph; and Class 3 Highways, Rathe Road from 50 mph to 30 mph. A public hearing will be held on October 25, 2016. Interested persons are invited to attend.
- A public hearing for the discontinuance of Munson Road was held. Shelley Hayes thanked the Selectboard for their consideration of the matter. No other residents commented on the matter
- Members of Colchester boards and commissions whose terms expire on September 30, 2016 were re-appointed.
- After the final presentation of the conceptual master plan for Bayside Park and Bayside / Hazelett properties by GreenPlay, LLC, the Selectboard gave approval for the Town staff's continued development of a comprehensive and



*Colchester – What do you want to do today?*

detailed master plan to include further public input and refinement of phasing details, costs, and amenities, with the assistance of a professional design firm.

You can read entire Selectboard meeting minutes or search for an individual item of interest on Clerkbase: <http://clerkshq.com/default.ashx?clientsite=Colchester-vt>

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